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NAALJ News

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NAALJ NEWS

The Board of Governors is pleased to announce that the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges has formally applied for affiliation as a State Chapter. The Honorable Harvey B. Cochran, the Honorable Edwin L. Felter, Jr., the Honorable Douglas F. Anderson, the Honorable Thomas R. Moeller, the Honorable H. Conway Gandy, the Honorable Paul H. Leibowitz and the Honorable Ronald M. Mullins, are the petitioning charter members of the Colorado Association. The Board will act upon the request for affiliation at the Annual Meeting in September.

Organizational efforts are under way in Texas and the District of Columbia. The Editor is informed that meetings have been held for the purpose of forming a Texas Chapter of NAALJ, and that the Honorable M. Brent Oldham, President-Elect of the National Association has recruited approximately 30 members for a D.C. Chapter. Interest in formal affiliation has also been expressed by members from other states.

In addition to organizing the D.C. Chapter and serving as Chairman of the 1982 Convention Committee, President-Elect Oldham has found time to advance the interests of NAALJ among other organizations. He was introduced at the December meeting of the Federal Administrative Law Judges Association, and obtained a pledge from that group to assist NAALJ. In March, he met with Milton W. Carrow, President of the National Center for Administrative Justice, and Marvin H. Morse, Director of Administrative Law Judges, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, in an effort to enhance the training function of our Association. Brent will take office as President in September.

The Honorable Paul Wyler, incumbent President of NAALJ, was a principal mover behind the Annual Forum of the California Administrative Law Judges Association, scheduled for June 11-12, 1982, shortly after this Journal goes to press. As usual, the California meeting was well planned and extensively publicized.

Vice President Jane H. Miller, acting at the request of President Wyler, has compiled a list of all known hearing officers in Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas and Florida. Other officers of the Association are expected to follow suit. The result will be the most complete list of State hearing officers presently available.

A bill to change the name of Illinois hearing examiners to administrative law judges passed both houses of the State Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor James R. Thompson, according to the Newsletter of the Illinois Association of Administrative Law Judges. A new bill to effectuate the name change has been proposed by a committee of the Chicago Bar Association, and has received the strong and reasoned support of the Illinois Chapter.

The Illinois Newsletter further reports that the work experience of hearing officers in that state's Division of Unemployment Insurance has been found to meet the qualification requirements for the position of federal

Administrative Law Judge. Illinois thus joins New York State in obtaining this recognition for its unemployment compensation referees. Demonstrating the qualifications of its members for federal judgeships has been a major initiative of NAALJ.

The enactment of a state corps statute, another important goal of NAALJ, received impetus at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter. Jean Grommes Feehan, Esq., attorney for the State's Administrative Rules Commission, who addressed the meeting, stressed the advantages of a proposed Illinois Office of Administrative Hearings. Honorable Barry W. Isaacson, who formerly edited the Illinois Newsletter, was elected President of the Illinois Chapter at the same meeting. Barry's duties as editor were assumed by National Secretary and former State Chapter President, Honorable Stanley J. Cygan.

The New York Chapter has rested its case before the State's Civil Service Commission. The three-year effort to obtain upward reallocation of administrative law judges was concluded with two days of oral argument and the submission of supplemental briefs. Honorable Theodore Weinstein, Past-President of the New York Chapter and Chairman of the Reallocation Committee, is optimistic about the Commission's eventual decision.

New York's Political Action Committee, under the Chairmanship of Honorable Nathan Siegel, General Counsel to the State Chapter, has drafted a proposed statute, creating a centralized office of administrative law judges, and extending the title of administrative law judge to qualified hearing officers in that state. The Committee is now working on a memorandum in support of the proposed legislation.

The Editor is pleased to announce that more than one-third of the nation's academic law libraries have purchased the Journal since it was made available to institutional subscribers in the spring.

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Please submit items of interest to the Editor